APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
HANG, VU B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/966,619	MCINTYRE, C. KEVIN
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vu B. Hang	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 October 2005*.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 7-05)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20051129

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for

the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (US Patent 6,163,658).

Regarding **Claim 1**, Suzuki discloses a method for saving and restoring printer control settings

(see Col.2, Line 15-36), comprising: selecting control settings for a printer using a control panel graphic

user interface of the printer (see Col.10, Line 30-63); executing a printer control program for determining

the selected control settings for the printer (see Col.7, Line 1-13); and saving the selected control settings

to a media storage device (see Col.4, Line 58-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent

6,163,658) in view of Chiles et al. (US Patent 6,167,567).

Regarding **Claim 2**, Suzuki discloses the method for saving and restoring printer control settings

of Claim 1 above but fails to expressly disclose a method to update a printer firmware. Chiles, however,

discloses a method to update a printer firmware (see Col.5, Line 1), with the method consisting of

downloading saved selected control settings from a media storage device and updating the printer with

the control settings (see Fig.2 (230), Col.3, Line 35-46 and Col.4, Line 32-42).

Suzuki and Chiles are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely

image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art

to use a printer control program to update a firmware, download, restore and update saved control

settings to a printer. The motivation for doing so would be to eliminate manual printer configuration by a

workstation user or a network administrator. The automation of printer configurations would be less time

consuming.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent

6,163,658) in view of Kimber et al. (US Patent 5,371,837).

Regarding **Claim 3**, Suzuki discloses the method for saving and restoring printer control settings

of Claim 1 above but fails to expressly disclose selecting one additional printer to transfer the saved

selected control settings to; and updating the control settings of the printer with the saved selected control

settings. Kimber, however, discloses that a printer can be selected within a network (see Col.1, Line 42-

49), and a means to update a printer with selected saved control settings (see Col.3, Line 60-Col.4, Line

7).

Suzuki and Kimber are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely

image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art

to use a control panel to select a printer in a network to transfer and update saved control settings to. The

motivation for doing so would be to create a less time consuming method for configuring printers in a

network. Manual printer configurations can be avoided.

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent

5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070).

Regarding **Claim 4**, Hibono discloses a method for saving and restoring printer control settings

(see Col.2, Line 12-25 and Col.3, Line 21-35), comprising: executing a printer control program for creating

and saving printer control settings (see Col.1, Line 18-24, Col.2, Line 12-25 and Col.3, Line 21-35); using

the printer control program to select at least one printer associated with the printer control program (see

Col.1, Line 18-24 and Col.7, Line 21-22); retrieving available control settings for at least one selected

printer (see Col.4, Line 25-33); displaying the retrieved available control settings for selection by a user

(see Col.4, Line 25-33); selecting the desired control settings from the retrieved available control settings (see Col.2, Line 17-22); saving the desired selected control settings (see Col.3, Line 24-34); and updating at least one selected printer with the desired control settings (see Col.6, Line 5-8). Hibino fails to expressly disclose saving the selected desired control setting for later retrieval. Cheng, however, discloses storing the desired control setting for later retrieval (see Col.4, Line 58-65).

Hibino and Cheng are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to the method for saving and restoring printer control settings (disclosed by Hibino) a mechanism for saving the desired selected control settings in a storage media, such as a database, for later retrieval. The motivation for doing so would be to have an easy access to the desired print control settings or reusable printing templates for targeted customized printings.

Regarding **Claim 5,** Hibino further discloses the use of a computer to execute the printer control program (see Col.1, Line 42-46).

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070), and in further view of Kulakowski et al. (US Patent 6,229,621).

Regarding **Claim 6,** Hibino and Cheng discloses the method of Claim 4 but fail to expressly disclose a means for selecting a group of printers. Kulakowski, however, discloses a mechanism for selecting multiple printers in a network environment (see Col.2, Line 63- Col.3, Line 3).

Hibino, Cheng and Kulakowski are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to add the capability of selecting multiple printers in a network environment for printer configurations. The motivation for doing so would be to allow a workstation user or a network administrator to configure multiple printers with the same desired control settings simultaneously. This would reduce time in configuring the printers as oppose to configuring each one individually.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070).

Regarding **Claim 7**, Hibino futher discloses retrieving available control settings from at east one printer (see Col.4, Line 22 –33).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070), and in further view of Kimber et al. (US Patent 5,371,837).

Regarding **Claim 8,** Hibino and Cheng discloses the method of Claim 4 but fail to expressly disclose a means for retrieving available control settings from a database. Kimber, however, discloses a mechanism for retrieving print control settings from a database (see Col.4, Line 7-19).

Hibino, Cheng and Kimber are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to create a method to retrieve available control settings from database storage. The motivation for doing so would be allow multiple printers within a network easy access to the control settings. At times, the storage for the settings can be too large for the media storage in each individual printer in the network to hold. Thus, this method would improve both the retrieval procedure and the control settings storage in a network environment.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070).

Regarding **Claim 9,** Hibino further discloses displaying retrieved control settings in graphical user interface format (see Fig.1 and Col.2, Line 1-11).

Claims 10-11, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070), and in further view of Chiles et al. (US Patent 6,167,567).

Regarding **Claim 10,** Hibino and Cheng discloses the method of Claim 4 but fail to expressly disclose a means to update the control settings in a predefined schedule. Chiles, however, discloses a method to update the control settings in a predefined schedule (see Col.4, Line 32-42).

Hibino, Cheng and Chiles are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in

the art to have a printer control program to perform control settings update on a predefined schedule. The motivation for doing so would be to allow one or more printers that have had their control settings changed by workstation users be reset or updated with the stored settings. The settings used by previous workstation users may not suit most of the users in the network environment. Thus, it is necessary to have control settings update on a predefined schedule.

Regarding **Claims 11, 16 and 20,** Hibino and Cheng discloses the method of Claim 4 but fail to expressly disclose a means for automatically updating the control settings following a firmware upgrade. Chiles, however, discloses a mechanism for automatically updating the control settings following a firmware upgrade (see Col.1, Line 7-11 and Col.3, Line 1-5).

Hibino, Cheng and Chiles are combinable since they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to create a method to automatically update the printer control settings following a firmware upgrade. The motivation for doing so is to ensure the predefined or new control settings are restored to the printer following a firmware upgrade since the control setting will be lost during the upgrade process. This would also eliminate the need for manual configurations following a firmware upgrade.

Claims 12-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibino (US Patent 5,694,618) in view of Cheng et al. (US Patent 6,012,070).

Regarding **Claim 12,** Hibino discloses a document production system for setting and maintaining printing control settings (see Col.2, Line 12-25 and Col.3, Line 21-35), comprising: at least one printer for printing documents conforming to stored control settings stored in the memory of at least one printer (see Fig.1 (1) and Col.2, Line 10-11); and a printer control program for retrieving control settings from at least one printer (see Col.4, Line 25-33), saving the control settings (see Col.3, Line 24-30), downloading the control settings (see Col.3, Line 65 – Col.4, Line 8) and updating the control settings in the memory of at least one printer (see Col.6, Line 5-15). Hibino fails to expressly disclose a mechanism for saving customized control settings for later use. Cheng, however, discloses a database system for storing customized print control settings (see Col.4, Line 58-65 and Col.11, Line 25-28).

Hibino and Cheng are combinable since they are from the same field of endeavor, namely image forming systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to the document production system for saving and maintaining printing control settings (disclosed by Hibino), a database system for storing customized print control settings for later use. The motivation for doing so would be to enable the document production system to have an easy access to the desired print control settings or reusable printing templates. For targeted customized printings, the database system would enhance the printing efficiency of the document production system.

Regarding **Claim 13**, Hibino further discloses a printer control program that is resident in the memory of a printer (see Col.3, Line 24-29).

Regarding **Claim 14**, Hibino and Cheng disclose the document production system as described in Claim 12 above. Hibino further discloses a storage media for receiving control settings from the printer control program (see Col.3, Line 24-34).

Regarding **Claim 15,** Hibino and Cheng disclose the document production system as described in Claim 12 above. Hibino further discloses a storage media for providing a printer control program with control settings to download from (see Col.3, Line 34-34).

Regarding **Claim 17**, Hibino and Cheng disclose the document production system as described in Claim 12 above. Hibino further discloses the use of a computer to execute the printer control program (see Fig.1 and Col.1, Line 12-14).

Regarding **Claim 18**, Hibino and Cheng disclose the document production system as described in Claims 12 and 17 above. Hibino further discloses a document production system consisting of a central processing unit for executing the printer control program (see Fig.2 (7)), a storage media for storing a printer control program (see Fig.2 (10)), a display device for displaying the control settings retrieved (see Fig.2 (4)), an input device for selecting desired control settings from a printer (see Fig.2 (5)) and a communication link for communicating with a printer (see Fig.2 (2)).

Regarding **Claim 19**, Hibino and Cheng disclose the document production system as described in Claims 12 and 17 above. Hibino further discloses a function.for manipulating the control settings of a printer (see Col.2, Line 17-22).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu B. Hang whose telephone number is (571) 272-0582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm.
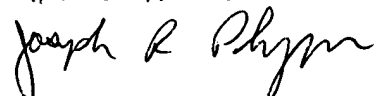
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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